

# HOSTAGE PLAN HOPE IS DIM

U.S. Doubts Russia Is Ready  
For Cultural Exchange

By PAUL W. WARD

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)  
Washington, Sept. 10.—United States officials evinced doubts today that the Soviet Union is ready for any such cultural exchanges with the United States as are outlined in a New York City "hostages-for-peace" project.

They voiced their skepticism while discussing press dispatches from New York that said the project has enlisted the support of James B. Donovan, the attorney, who negotiated the release of Cuban prisoners, and that, in consequence, he will go to Geneva for a meeting with Soviet representatives next June 22-28.

Officials here said that so far as the State Department is aware, no such Soviet-American meeting has actually been arranged and that Donovan has not been in touch with the department. They added that they had heard nothing about the project since its author, Stephen D. James, a Bronx (N.Y.) advertising copy writer, sounded out the State Department a year ago through Representative Lindsay (R., N.Y.).

They also said there has been no change in the State Department's judgment when Frederick G. Dutton, Assistant Secretary of State for congressional relations, set forth last September in a letter to Lindsay that said:

"Any program which would enable Americans to live as Soviet citizens, work at the same jobs, obtain the same ration and permit them to see Soviet life as it really is, would no doubt be unacceptable to the Soviet authorities.

"They would also be unwilling to have their citizens exposed in such detail to life in the United States.

Writes Letter To Russia

"The suspicion which would be engendered in the minds of the Soviet authorities by official proposal or sponsorship of mass exchanges, which would almost certainly be unacceptable to them, might well endanger the existing exchange program and our hope for its gradual expansion."

James announced in New York three days ago that he had set forth his "Hostages-for-peace" plan in a letter to N. I. Glagolev, director of the Scientific Group for Disarmament, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Soviet Academy of Sciences, and had just received a reply expressing "interest."

His proposals for the broad development of an exchange as a means of strengthening of peace is, in my opinion, of interest," Glagolev wrote.

But, he added, only through universal acceptance of the Kremlin's project for general and complete disarmament can all threats of war be eliminated and a "system of world security" be established which would make possible "a broad, widespread international exchange of people, publications and goods."

In his letter to a reporter, James had proposed "bringing large numbers—up to a nation or more a year—of your citizens to our country and ours to yours."

Officials here were accordingly puzzled by the reports from New York that said Donovan would be going to Geneva in nine months hence to negotiate a "pilot exchange" program to include, including, for example, exchange of high-ranking officials.

They noted that agreements already in effect between Washington and Moscow provide for large-scale exchanges, than that over the course of a year about 12,000 Americans spend some time in the Soviet Union, they said, including the 30 to 50 living in Moscow as American Embassy staff members.

Noting that they will have a chance to sound out the Russians in regard to the Donovan-James

project when negotiations begin in November for a new two-year Soviet-American exchange agreement, officials said that under current agreements

2. Twenty-five Americans were in the Soviet Union this summer taking a two-week language-learning course while an equal number of language teachers from the Soviet Union took such courses in the United States.

3. During the past year, this month 42 full-time graduate students from the Soviet Union will pursue their studies at American universities and 40 of their American opposite numbers will study in the Soviet Union.

Professors Exchange

4. Twenty-five American professors or research workers have been spending one to four months in the Soviet Union each year while an equal number of their Soviet counterparts visited the United States.

5. Scientists working at the dual task of being exchanged at the rate of 25 to 20 a year aside under an agreement between the Soviet Academy of Scientists and the American Council of Learned Societies.

In addition, officials estimated that 10,000 United States citizens visited the Soviet Union as tourists during the past year but no more than 20 Soviet nationals came to the United States as tourists.

The Soviet authorities, they continued, still oppose any meaningful contacts between Americans and Soviet nationals coming to this country in any capacity, and are even more resistant to such Soviet-American contacts in the Soviet Union.

CPYRIGHT